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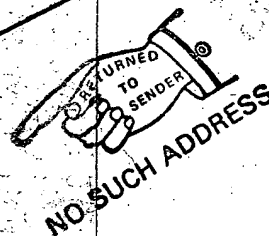
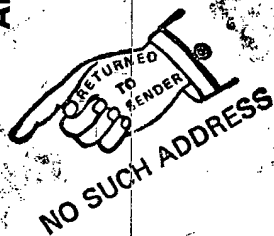
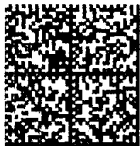
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,695	04/21/2004	Steven Roy Gosewehr		7087

7590
Steven R. Gosewehr
2501 Glencliff
Plano, TX 75075

04/07/2006



EXAMINER

SHAH, AMEE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/828,695	GOSEWEHR, STEVEN ROY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amee A. Shah	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/25/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-12 are pending in this action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed June 25, 2004, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein regarding the non-patent literature has not been considered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(m) and (p) because (1) they contain improper shading that does not aid in the understanding of the invention and will not reproduce properly; and (2) they contain text that is almost illegible as being too small and will not reproduce properly.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

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be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Examiner Note

Examiner cites particular pages, columns, paragraphs and/or line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liebman, U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0046166 A1, cited by Applicant (hereinafter referred to as “Liebman”).

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Referring to claim 1. Liebman discloses a method for electronically communicating product information to customers, accepting, and processing orders for food service related products utilizing an animated guide that interacts graphically and by audio with users such as customers and employees and helps to prompt said users through ordering and order processing, comprising the steps of:

- providing a first means for displaying said animated guide (pages 2-3, ¶¶0030-0031 – note that the means for displaying is the touch-screen panel),
- providing a second means for the customer to interact with said system by inputting responses to product options presented to said user on said display means (pages 2-3, ¶¶0030-0021 – note the means for interacting is the touch-screen panel),
- providing a third means for said system to respond to input of said user (page 3, ¶¶0031-0032),
- providing a fourth means of payment input so that said customer can pay for their order (page 3, ¶¶0031-0033),
- providing a fifth means for said system to process said payment (page 3, ¶¶0032-0033),
- providing a sixth means for said system to acknowledge receipt of said customer's payment and complete the method of transaction (page 3, ¶¶0032 – note the means for acknowledgement is the printed receipt),

whereby said customer will be able to complete an entire order and transaction quickly and easily without the assistance of a human employee by interacting with said animated guide.

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Referring to claim 2. Liebman further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said user of said system interacts with said system by touching items on a means for accepting physical interaction, which could include touching said screen and typing on a keyboard (page 3, ¶¶0030-0031 – note the means for interaction is the touch-screen panel).

Referring to claim 3. Liebman further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said user of said system interacts with said system by voice commands that are processed using a means for voice recognition (page 3, ¶¶0034 and 0036).

Referring to claim 4. Liebman further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said means for inputting payment includes the ability to read magnetic cards such as credit cards and debit cards (page 3, ¶¶0032-0033).

Referring to claims 7-10. All of the limitations in apparatus claims 7-10 are closely parallel to the limitations of method claims 1-4, analyzed above and are rejected on the same bases.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dev et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0158499 A1 (hereinafter referred to as “Dev et al.”).

Referring to claim 1. Dev et al. discloses a method for electronically communicating product information to customers, accepting, and processing orders for food service related

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products utilizing an animated guide that interacts graphically and by audio with users such as customers and employees and helps to prompt said users through ordering and order processing, comprising the steps of:

- providing a first means for displaying said animated guide (page 3, ¶0044 – note that the means for displaying is the touch-screen),
- providing a second means for the customer to interact with said system by inputting responses to product options presented to said user on said display means (page 3, ¶0044 – note the means for interacting is the touch-screen),
- providing a third means for said system to respond to input of said user (page 3, ¶0044),
- providing a fourth means of payment input so that said customer can pay for their order (page 3, ¶0044),
- providing a fifth means for said system to process said payment (page 3, ¶0044),
- providing a sixth means for said system to acknowledge receipt of said customer's payment and complete the method of transaction (pages 3 and 6, ¶¶0044 and 0075 – note the means for acknowledgement is the printed receipt),

whereby said customer will be able to complete an entire order and transaction quickly and easily without the assistance of a human employee by interacting with said animated guide.

Referring to claim 5. Dev et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said means for inputting payment includes the ability to accept hard currency such as paper money

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and the ability to dispense change (page 3, ¶0044 – note the means for inputting payment can include a bill acceptor, bill dispenser, and coin acceptor/dispenser).

Referring to claim 6. Dev et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said means for processing said payment is handled by a 3rd party means of processing payments external to said system (pages 4 and 5, ¶¶0053 and 0069 – note the third party is the credit authorization bureau).

Referring to claims 7, 11 and 12. All of the limitations in apparatus claims 7, 11 and 12 are closely parallel to the limitations of method claims 1, 5 and 6, analyzed above and are rejected on the same bases.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) Coutts, U.S. Pat. No. 5,752,239, discloses a self-service terminal using animated guides (*see entire document*).

(2) Camaisa et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,845,263, cited by Applicant, discloses a system and method for electronically ordering food with a touch-screen including means to communicate product information, accept and process orders with an animated guide, accept payments and provide receipts (*see entire document*).

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(3) Struthers et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0075600 A1, discloses a method and apparatus for electronically communicating product information to customers, accepting and processing orders using an animated guide that interacts graphically and by audio with users (*see* entire document).

(4) Sturr, Jr., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0143512 A1, discloses a system and method for ordering food related items from a kiosk with a user interface using dynamic imaging and texting display, means to interact with and respond to customers, means for accepting payment, and means to acknowledge receipt of payment (*see* entire document).

(5) Ramsey, WO 9628791 A1, discloses an unattended system for selling and dispensing, including electronically communicating product information to customers, accepting and processing orders using an animated guide that interacts graphically and by audio with users, accepting payments and providing receipts (*see* entire document).

(6) Stafford, Leon, "Fast Food to Hit Screens," The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta, GA, Jul 26, 2002, pg. F.4, discloses a system and method to incorporate touch-screens with animated menu boards that will allow customers to place food orders electronically.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amee A. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-8116. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

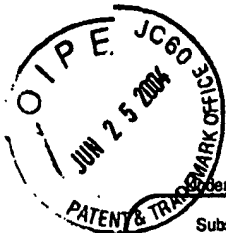
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Fadok can be reached on 571-272-6755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AAS
April 3, 2006


J. C. Gaof
Primary Ex



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/828695
Filing Date	4/21/04
First Named Inventor	Steven R. Gosewehr
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
AS		US- 5761071	06-02-1998	Bernstein, et al.	
AS		US- 6078848	06-20-2000	Bernstein, et al.	
AS		US- 6087927	07-11-2000	Battistini, et al.	
AS		US- 5845263	12-01-1998	Camaisa, et al.	
AS		US- 20020098001	07-25-2002	Dahl, Andrew A.	
AS		US- 20030105679	06-05-2003	Krishnan, A.; et al.	
AS		US- 20030046166	03-06-2003	Liebman, Todd S.	
AS		US- 20020019885	02-24-2002	Sleeper, Dean A.	
AS		US- 20020038165	03-28-2002	McHale, John T. IV	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
Signature

Amee Shah

Date

Considered

3/31/06

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Application Number	10/828695
Filing Date	4/21/04
First Named Inventor	Steven R. Gosewehr
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

Sheet 2 of 2

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	<i>Imel Shah</i>	Date Considered	3/31/06
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1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/828,695	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination GOSEWEHR, STEVEN ROY	
	Examiner Amea A. Shah	Art Unit 3625	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-5,752,239 A	05-1998	Coutts, Michael G.	705/26
*	B	US-5,845,263	12-1998	Camaisa et al.	705/15
*	C	US-2003/0046166 A1	03-2003	Liebman, Todd S.	705/15
*	D	US-2003/0075600 A1	04-2003	Struthers et al.	235/381
*	E	US-2004/0143512 A1	07-2004	Sturr, Paul Edward JR.	705/026
*	F	US-2004/0158499 A1	08-2004	Dev et al.	705/026
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	I	US-			
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	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	WO 9628791 A1	09-1996	World Intellect	RAMSEY, FURMAN D	G06F 17/60
	O					
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	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	Stafford, Leon, "Fast Food to Hit Screens," The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta, GA, Jul 26, 2002, pg. F.4.
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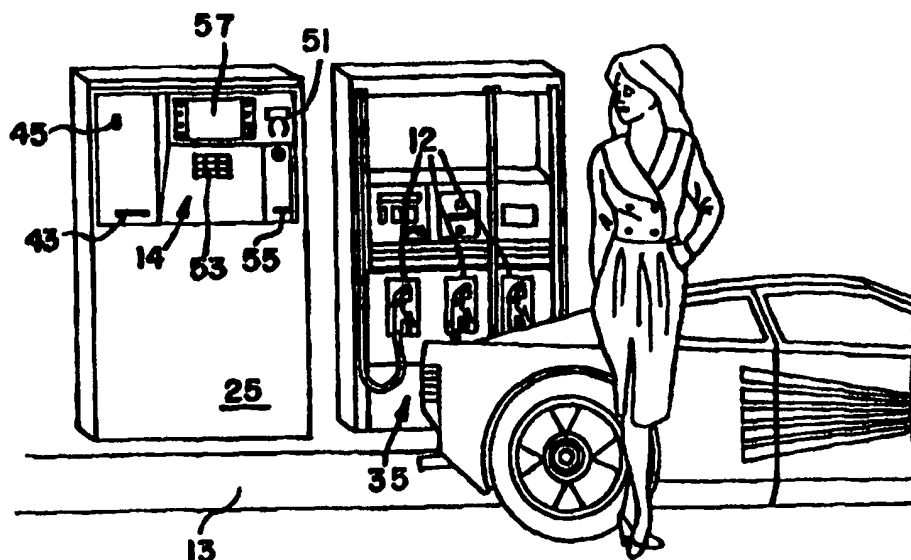
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 17/60	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/28791 (43) International Publication Date: 19 September 1996 (19.09.96)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/03397</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 13 March 1996 (13.03.96)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 08/403,220 13 March 1995 (13.03.95) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: TASK TECHNOLOGY USA, INC. [US/US]; 3714 Alliance Drive, Greensboro NC 27407 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventor: RAMSEY, Furman, D.; 4802 Trailwood Drive, Greensboro NC 27407 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: BUFALINO, Angelo, J.; Lockwood, Alex, FitzGibbon & Cummings, Three First National Plaza #1700, Chicago, IL 60602 (US).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>	

(54) Title: UNATTENDED AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR SELLING AND DISPENSING



(57) Abstract

A system for an unattended automated service station for selling and dispensing products, primarily motor fuels from a service island. The system includes fuel dispensing device (35), card reading device (51), coin and currency acceptor devices (43, 45), card verification device (27), coin and currency dispensing devices (47, 49), receipt printing device (55), processor control device (39), fuel activating and selection device (31), display device (57), audio device, and a data transmission device (33). The components interact to enable a customer to select a specific fuel or product purchase through any combination of coins or currency, have the fuel dispensing automatically activated, enable delivery of a preselected quantity of fuel, provide a cash or credit card receipt, and provide other information concerning other products or services for sale during the fuel delivery process.

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UNATTENDED AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR SELLING AND DISPENSING**Background of the Invention**

This invention relates generally to customer controlled facilities for selling and dispensing consumer products and services, and more particularly to a system for an unattended automated service or selling station for
5 selling and dispensing products, particularly motor fuel, by card or cash and returning any change that may be due.

Heretofore, equipment has been provided at service stations which permit the remote enablement of gasoline dispensers by an attendant-controlled terminal.
10 In such equipment, the terminal is located in the sales office of the service station remote from the island which contains the fuel pump dispensers. Such a terminal prevents theft of gasoline by allowing only the attendant to enable the fuel dispensing pumps.

15 U.S. Patent No. 3,786,421, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, discloses a system wherein the service station attendant has been eliminated by permitting self-vending of the fuel and self-payment by the customer. This device, however, is only capable of
20 being actuated by a credit card and is not capable of receiving money for the transaction or giving change due. It further does not handle goods which cannot be automatically dispensed and therefore, does not create a complete transactional receipt for the purchased goods.

25 U.S. Patent No. 3,931,497, which issued January 6, 1976, the contents of which are also incorporated herein by reference, discloses an automatic fuel dispenser which is actuated by either a credit card or currency to establish a pre-established value for a particular amount
30 of motor fuel and which dispenses a quantity of fuel up to the limit of the currency value or card limit value

-2-

inputted by the user. This system, however, is not capable of making exact change or of accepting any amount of currency or coins in payment for fuel.

U.S. Patent No. 3,747,732, issued July 24, 1973
5 and 3,768,617, issued October 30, 1973 the contents of each are incorporated herein by reference, disclose fuel dispensing systems which utilize change calculating coin-return mechanisms whereby an appropriate amount of change, in coins, may be returned to the customer in the event a
10 preset amount of fuel has been dispensed and payment has been in excess of the amount needed for the purchase.

More recently, other systems have been developed for interaction with dispensing systems to enable customer control and selection for the purchase of consumer
15 products, such as fuel, while providing during the process audio instructions and video instructions and information concerning the immediate purchase or issues relating thereto. See, for example, International Application No. PCT/GB88/00651, the contents of which are incorporated
20 herein by reference.

The convenience of unattended automated service and selling stations for selling and dispensing items, particularly fuel, has created an ever-increasing need for such technology, and it is to that need that the present
25 invention is directed.

None of the prior art provides change in the form of currency, i.e. banknotes and coins, and hence falls short of completely automating the retail sales agent function for the dispensing of motor fuel.

30

Summary of the Invention

It is therefore a general object of the present invention to provide a system for use in an unattended, automated service station for use in the selling and
35 dispensing of products and services, principally motor fuel, that includes all of the advantages of prior art systems and none of the disadvantages, and specifically to

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provide a system permitting the operation of a totally unmanned facility that will increase sales and reduce manpower costs.

Another object of the present invention is to
5 provide a system for use with unattended service stations for the unattended and automated dispensing and selling of motor fuel which include, audio and visual instructions and information concerning the present selling and dispensing activities, as well as other available items
10 for purchase and other useful information concerning local businesses and activities.

Yet another objective of the present invention is to provide a system of the type described that is operable with either cash or credit card by a user and
15 which is capable of delivering correct change to a user by dispensing currency and coins in any amount of cash or credit applied toward the purchase.

Yet still another object of the present invention is to provide an unattended purchase site having
20 high security and reliability and user-friendly components to facilitate the unattended sales transaction.

The present invention encompasses a system for an unattended automated service station for the selling of and dispensing of products and services, primarily motor
25 fuel, which includes means indicating the quantity of fuel dispensed; card reader means identifying indicia carried by credit card and generating signals indicative of the indicia; card verification means for verifying the credit state of a card; coin and currency acceptor means for
30 receiving direct payment for a quantity of fuel to be dispensed; receipt printing means for generating credit card and cash purchase receipts; fuel dispensing activating means for enabling the fuel dispensing means to dispense fuel; data transmission means interconnecting the
35 various components of the system with other components to remote verifying and information services; and a process control means interconnected to the credit card reader

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means, the coin and currency acceptor means, the credit
card verification means, coin and currency dispensing
means, the receipt printing means, the display means, the
audio means, and the receipt generating means, the process
5 control means being responsive to receive data transmitted
from the card verification means and the card acceptor
means to activate the fuel dispensing means for delivering
a specific quantity, generating a receipt, activating the
coin and currency dispensing means to deliver an exact
10 amount of change in coins and currency, and terminating
the operation of the system.

There has been outlined rather broadly and in
summary form, the more important features of the invention
in order that the detailed description that follows may be
15 better understood and in order that the present
contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There
are obviously additional features of the invention that
will be described hereinafter and which will form the
subject matter of the claims appended hereto. In this
20 respect, before explaining several embodiments of the
invention in detail, it is to be understood that the
invention is not limited in its application to the details
of construction and to the arrangement of the components
set forth in the following description or illustrated in
25 the drawings. The invention is capable of other
embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in
various ways.

It is also to be understood that the phraseology
and terminology used herein are for the purpose of
30 description and should not be regarded as limiting in any
respect. Those skilled in the art will appreciate the
concept upon which this disclosure is based and that it
may readily be utilized as a basis for designing other
structures, methods and systems for carrying out the
35 several purposes of the present invention. It is also to
be understood that the abstract is neither intended to

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define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor to limit its scope in any way.

These and other objects, features and advantages of the present inventions will be apparent through a reading of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Throughout the course of this detailed description, reference will be made to the following drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a motor fuel service station incorporating an unattended selling and dispensing system constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of a fuel island of the service station of FIG. 1 illustrating a customer in place at the customer console thereof;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of an alternate customer engaging console embodying a portion of the present invention in place at a fuel island with a dispensing facility which enables the unattended purchase of other consumer products in addition to fuel;

FIG. 4 is a functional block diagram illustration of the connected components comprising the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating the basic control sequence executed by the components represented in FIG. 4, and

FIG. 6 is an enlarged and isolated view of the customer engaging console constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention used in the unattended service station of FIG. 1.

35

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Detailed Description of the Invention

Reference will be made hereinafter to the present invention as it relates to an unattended service station having a plurality of gasoline dispensing islands to which the system comprising the present invention is applied. It is to be understood, however, that the system may be applied to other automated vending services or selling stations where consumer products such as food, drinks, cigarettes, candies, nonprescription drugs and others may be sold. In many instances, such items can be sold in conjunction with motor fuel at an unattended station.

Referring now to FIG. 1, an unattended service station 10 is illustrated which includes a plurality of gasoline dispensing islands 13, 15, 17 each of which is shown as having a separate, two-sided gasoline dispensers 19, 21, 23 shown generally in the Figures as fuel pump dispensers 35. Each side of the dispensers 19, 21, 23 may have anywhere from between one to five fuel outlets 12 for dispensing separate types of fuels, for example, regular, midgrade, premium, and diesel fuel.

Apparatus of the present invention includes a customer engaging console 25 closely associated in proximity and function with gasoline dispensers 19, 21, 23 and are shown illustrated in FIGS. 2 & 3 as in place upon one of the islands. This console 25 is preferably soundly constructed to be theft-and weatherproof and designed to house most of the components of the system shown more specifically in FIG. 4.

A facility server 27 is located in a separate and remote closed facility 29 in order to provide a control center for all of the consoles and fuel islands sites of the service station 10. The facility server 27, by way of a suitable transmission means 33, has suitable wide area network connections to gather all off-site information necessary for the efficient operation of the system including, but not limited to, credit card

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verification and other information needed in day-to-day operation of the service station 10.

5 The facility server 27, through an interface 31, controls the activation and deactivation of the fuel dispensers 35 which continually display sales indicia, such fuel price and fuel quantity units for the customer. Server 27, through another transmission means, preferably in the form of a suitable local area network ("LAN") 37, also connects with a customer interface controller 39 in
10 order to clear a credit sale transaction and activate fuel dispensation after such transaction has been cleared, or after a cash purchase has been initiated. In instances concerning the latter type of purchase, a PC controller 39 is connected to a cash coin controller 41 which in turn
15 has two-way communication with a cash acceptor 43. Controller 41 also receives input from coin acceptor 45, and has two-way communication with cash dispenser 47, as shown in FIG. 4 in order to controls coin dispensation through coin dispenser 47.

20 The credit card reader 51 transmits information to controller 39, and an optional numerical pad 53 for the entering by a purchaser of a PIN ("personal identification number") is similarly connected to prohibit fraudulent access to the credit card reader and mechanism associated
25 therewith. A receipt printer 55 is also provided which is activated by the controller 39 to provide a transaction receipt of the purchase regardless of whether the purchase is credit card or cash-based. A video display 57 may be provided on the console 25 which is controlled by
30 controller 39 in order to provide additional fueling instructions or other important information about products for sale or locations of interest to the purchaser. There is an optional provision for a touch-panel type display to facilitate customer selections by touching simulated
35 buttons on the screen.

With reference now to FIG. 5 which illustrates the operational sequence of the system of the present

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invention, controller 39 controls the processing and management of the customer control console 25. The operational activities may be summarized as follows:

- 5 (1) data is received from card reader 51 which includes information read from the customer's credit card, by way of its magnetic stripe, and is manipulated to provide output commands to the server 27 for off-site verification;
- 10 (2) an accepted card enables the interface 31 of the system to activate the appropriate dispenser 35;
- (3) fueling commences and audio instructions or information may be provided during the fueling period; and
- 15 (4) fueling is completed and an optional receipt is available from receipt printer 55 through controller 39.

In the event a cash purchase of motor fuel is desired by the purchaser, cash, such as either currency or
20 coins are inserted into either the currency acceptor 43 and/or the coin acceptor 45. The dispenser 35 is then activated through interface 31 by the facility server 27 via controllers 39 and 41 once the amount deposited by the purchaser into the acceptors 43, 45 is determined. Upon
25 the completion of fueling, cash and/or coins that are due from the transaction are returned by way of activation of four currency dispensers 49 and/or four coin dispensers 47 upon initiation by controller 41.

In order to effectuate providing the purchaser
30 with change for his or her purchase of fuel, the currency and coin dispensers 47, 49 preferably contain distinct supplies of different denominations of currencies and coins. As illustrated in Fig. 4, the currency dispenser 47 contains a supply of the following different
35 denominations of currency: 1-dollar bills, 5-dollar bills, 10-dollar bills and 20-dollar bills, while the coin dispenser 49 contains a supply of the following different

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denomination coins: pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Upon command from a signal from the controller 41, the dispensers 47, 49 will make appropriate change to the purchaser, which may be dispensed to the purchaser by way of a slot 18 on the customer console 25. Any convenient amount of cash may be utilized for the purchase such as a \$20.00 bill even though the sales transaction totals only \$18.50. Likewise, the cash and coin acceptors 43, 45 will have the ability, as is known in the art of such acceptors, to distinguish between and identify different denominations of currency and coins as illustrated in FIG. 4.

An optional receipt is again available, and after a suitable time elapses, the system recycles to the start position.

The console 25 preferably is partially embedded in a concrete base of the service station island and is also preferably physically constructed to resist vandalism and weather. The customer engaging screen 14 of the console 25 is preferably recessed within front wall 59 thereof to protect it from wind and rain and to facilitate its visibility to a purchaser. Moreover, the console 25 and fuel island will be suitably covered with a protective roof 16 to further insure minimum weather damage to the unit. All interconnecting transmission lines such as copper wires, fiber optic cables or the like 18 which may make up part of the LAN 37 may be sealed in a protective conduit and buried in concrete extending from the console 25 to the separate closed facility 29 and to all dispensers 35. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the customer console 25 may also be incorporated into an additional product vending station 26 disposed on the service station islands in proximity to the fuel dispensers 35 at which the purchaser may purchase drinks, snacks, personal items, etc.

The various components of the present system are of a conventional nature, but have been combined to

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provide the unique combination set forth herein. For example, an appropriate facility server 27 may be a Dell PT90 personal computer with 500 megabyte hard drive and 32 megabytes of RAM (random access memory). Larger memory applications may be required dependent upon the member of islands and dispensers served.

A suitable interface 31 operable with this type of PC server may include a conventional GPCC manufactured by Progressive International, Inc. A compatible customer interface controller 39 may be a PSI Pieces and Parts PC. A Hess GmbH MCMC Controller Board (TIPS 280) may be used as suitable cash coin controller 41. A suitable coin dispenser 47 suitable for use and the present invention is the Universal Hopper MK11 made by Coin Controller, Ltd., and a suitable cash dispenser 49 may be the Model 13234 banknote dispenser made by DeLaRu Ltd.

Additional acceptable components for the present invention include a credit card reader 51 may include a Model No. MT 215232 made by Magtee Corporation, while suitable receipt printer 55 for use with the present invention may be the Model FTP 421 (WMCR 512) Printer by Fugitsu. Any number of suitable units for video display 57, for example Potronix, model 2400, are available and the PIN pad 53 may be of the type utilized by banks in automatic teller machines such as by Atalla. Numerous alternative components for each of the operational functions are currently available and can be utilized in the present inventive concept.

In the drawings and specification there has been set forth the best mode presently contemplated for the practice of the present invention, and although specific terms are employed, they are used in the generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being defined in the claims.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention have been shown and described, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that changes or modifications may

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be made thereto without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention.

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I CLAIM:

1. A system for an unattended automated service or selling station for selling and dispensing products and services, particularly fuel, comprising:

5 dispensing means for dispensing a preselected quantity of a motor fuel and for indicating the amount of fuel dispensed;

10 first and second means for accepting payment corresponding to the preselected quantity of said motor fuel, said first payment acceptance means accepting indirect payment from a purchaser by way of currency and coin and including credit card reader means for reading identification and verification data from a credit card of the purchaser;

15 said second payment acceptance means accepting direct payment from said purchaser by way of currency and coin and including currency and coin acceptors for receiving a payment amount directly from said purchaser;

20 first verification means for verifying the integrity of said credit card accepted by said first payment acceptance means;

 second verification means for verifying the payment amount accepted by said second payment acceptance means;

25 dispensing activating means for activating said fuel dispensing means to dispense said preselected quantity of motor fuel and deactivating said fuel dispensing means when said preselected quantity of motor fuel has been dispensed;

30 printing means for generating a printed receipt indicating a direct or indirect payment for said preselected quantity of motor fuel and,

35 control means interconnecting said first and second payment acceptance means, said first and second verification means, said printing means, dispensing means and dispensing activating means

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together such that data may be terminated between
said control means to and from said previously
recited means, said control means including processor
40 means for responding to data transmitted from either
of said first and second verification means and
activating said fuel dispensing means to enable
dispensing of said preselected quantity of motor
fuel, generating a receipt reflecting such a purchase
45 and deactivating said fuel dispensing means.

2. The unattended automated service station as defined
in claim 1, further including change dispensing means
for dispensing change to said purchaser after a
purchase of motor fuel whenever any direct payment
5 made by said purchaser exceeds any payment amount
corresponding to said preselected quantity of motor
fuel.

3. The unattended automated service station as defined
in claim 2, wherein said charge dispensing means
includes first and second dispensing means, said
first dispensing means including currency dispensers
5 and said second dispensing means including coin
dispensers.

4. The unattended automated service station as defined
in claim 2, wherein said first dispensing means
includes at least three distinct currency dispensers,
each of said three currency dispensers including a
5 supply of currency stored therein and said second
dispensing means includes a plurality of coin
dispensers corresponding in number to the number of
distinct coins which make up a lowest denomination of
currency.

5. The unattended automated service station as defined
in claim 4, wherein said plurality of coin dispensers

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- 5 includes four coin dispensers, said four coin dispensers containing respective supplies of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.
6. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 1, further including audio information means for providing audio information and instructions to said purchaser for operating said system.
7. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 1, further including visual audio information means for providing a visual display for conveying visual information and instructions to said purchaser for operating said systems.
- 5 8. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 1, further including audio and visual information display means for providing both visual and audio information and instructions to said purchaser for operating said system.
9. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 1, wherein said unattached service station includes at least one service island associated therewith, the service island including at least one fuel pump associated therewith, said fuel dispensing means being connected to said fuel pump.
- 5 10. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 1, wherein said unattached service station includes a plurality of service islands each of the service islands including at least one fuel dispenser associated therewith, each of said service island including a purchaser accessible console, said console containing said fuel dispensing means, said first and second payment acceptance means and said printing means.

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11. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 2, wherein said unattached service station includes a plurality of service islands each of the service islands including at least one fuel dispenser associated therewith, each of said service island including a purchaser accessible console, said console containing said fuel dispensing means, said first and second payment acceptance means and said printing means.
12. The unattended automated service station as defined in claim 11, wherein said charge dispensing means includes first dispensing means for dispensing a predetermined amount of currency from a currency supply as charge for a direct payment purchases of motor fuel and second dispensing means for dispensing a predetermined amount of coins from a coin supply as change for a direct payment purchase of motor fuel, said first and second dispensing means being interconnected by said control means to dispense any preselected amount of change to said purchaser for a purchase of motor fuel.

1 / 5

FIG. 1

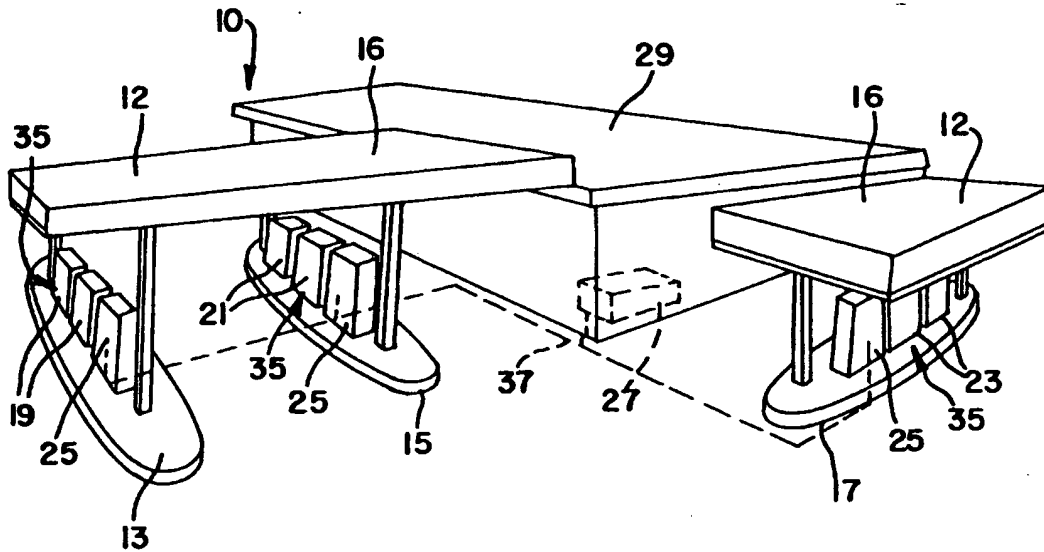
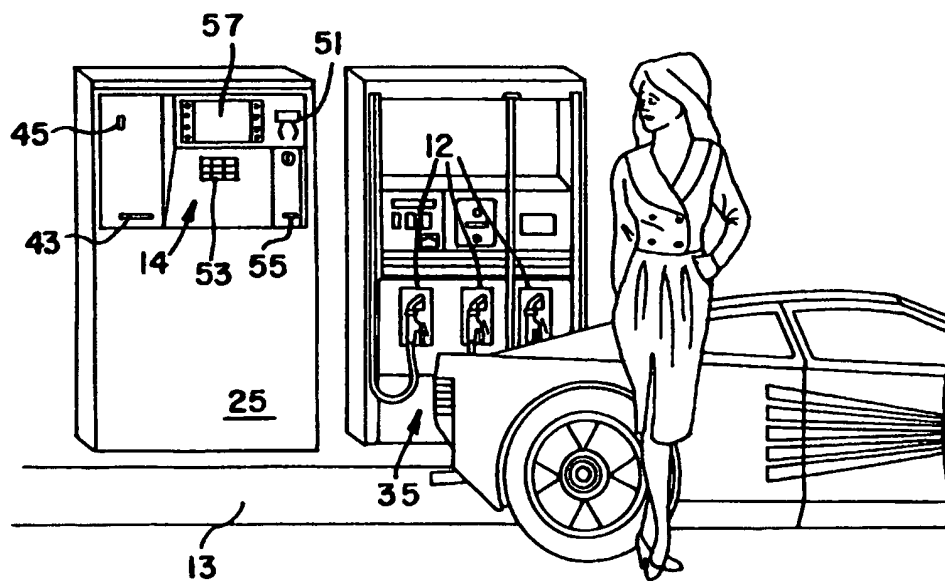


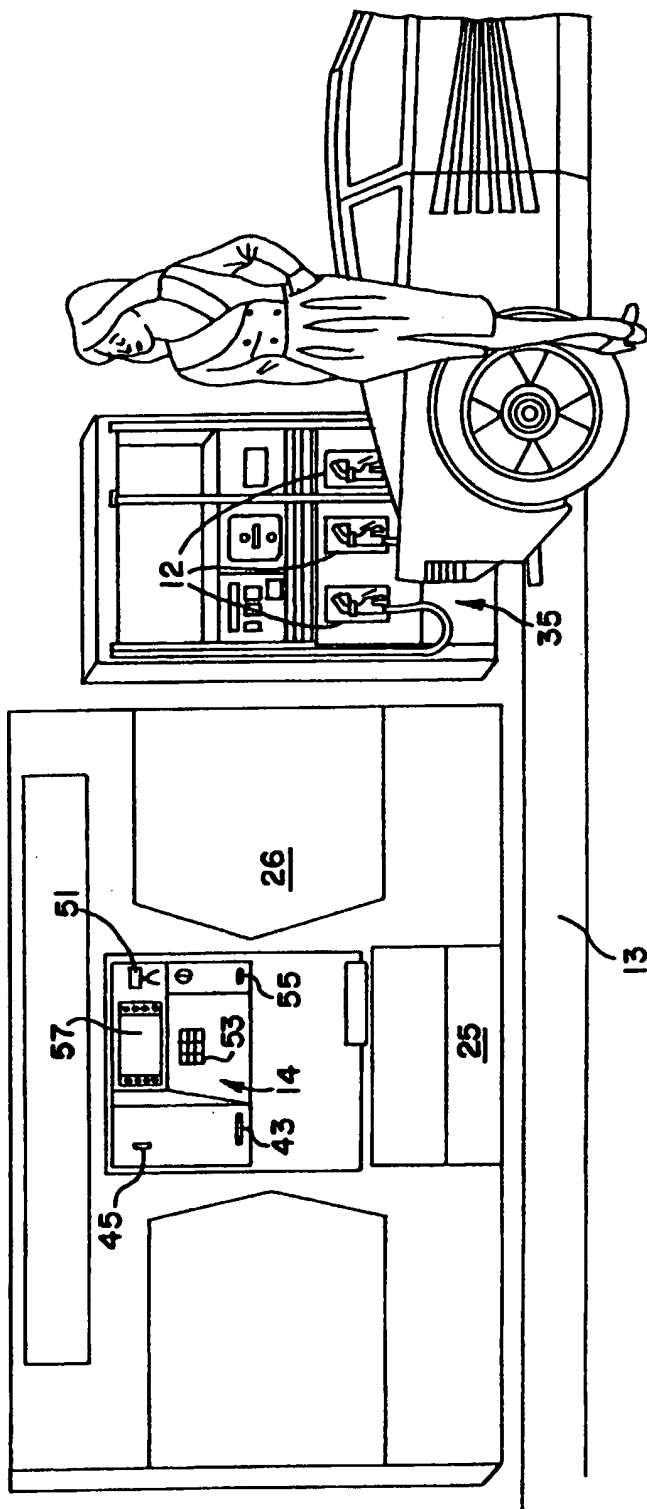
FIG. 2



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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FIG.3



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

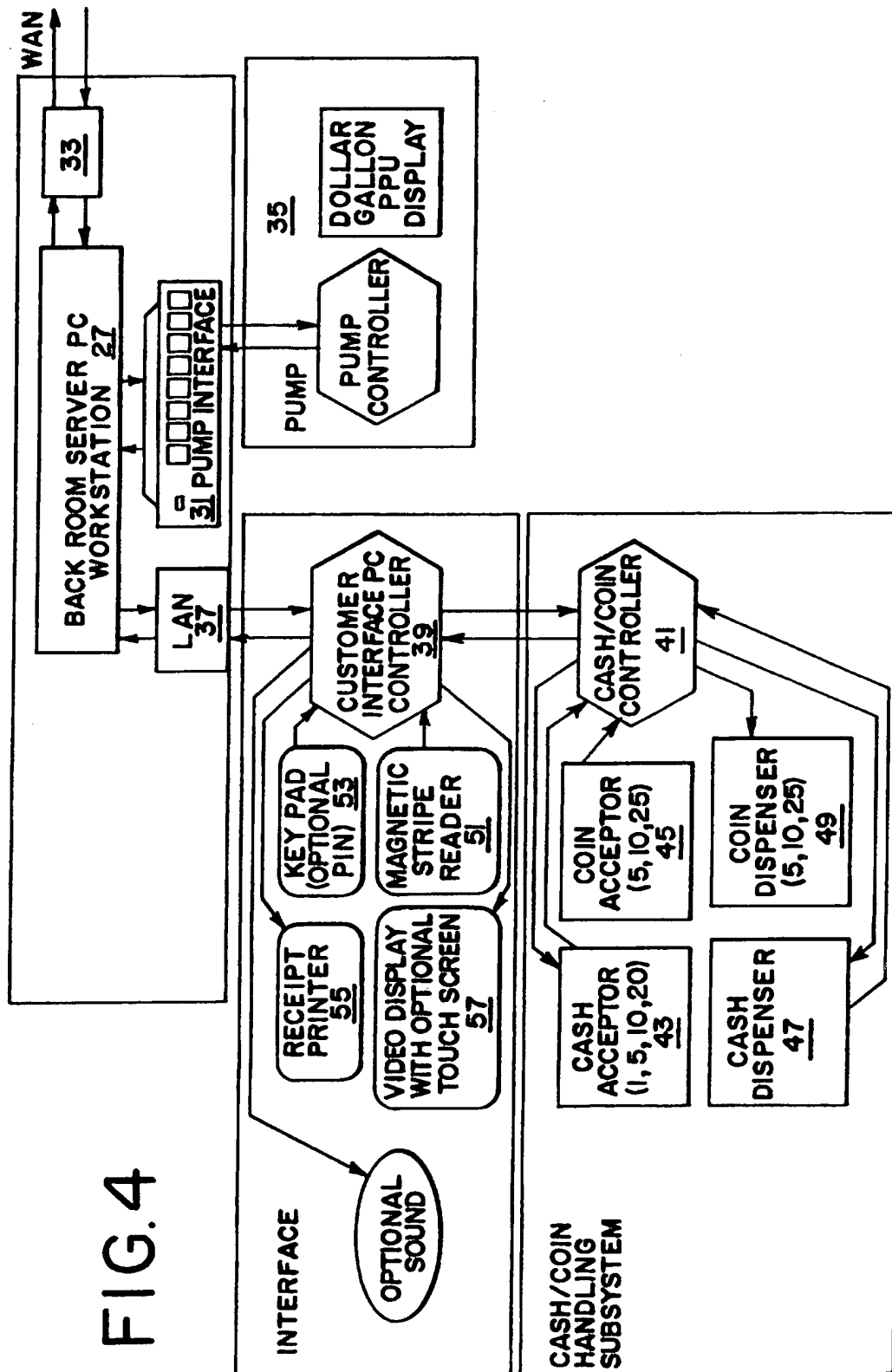


FIG. 4

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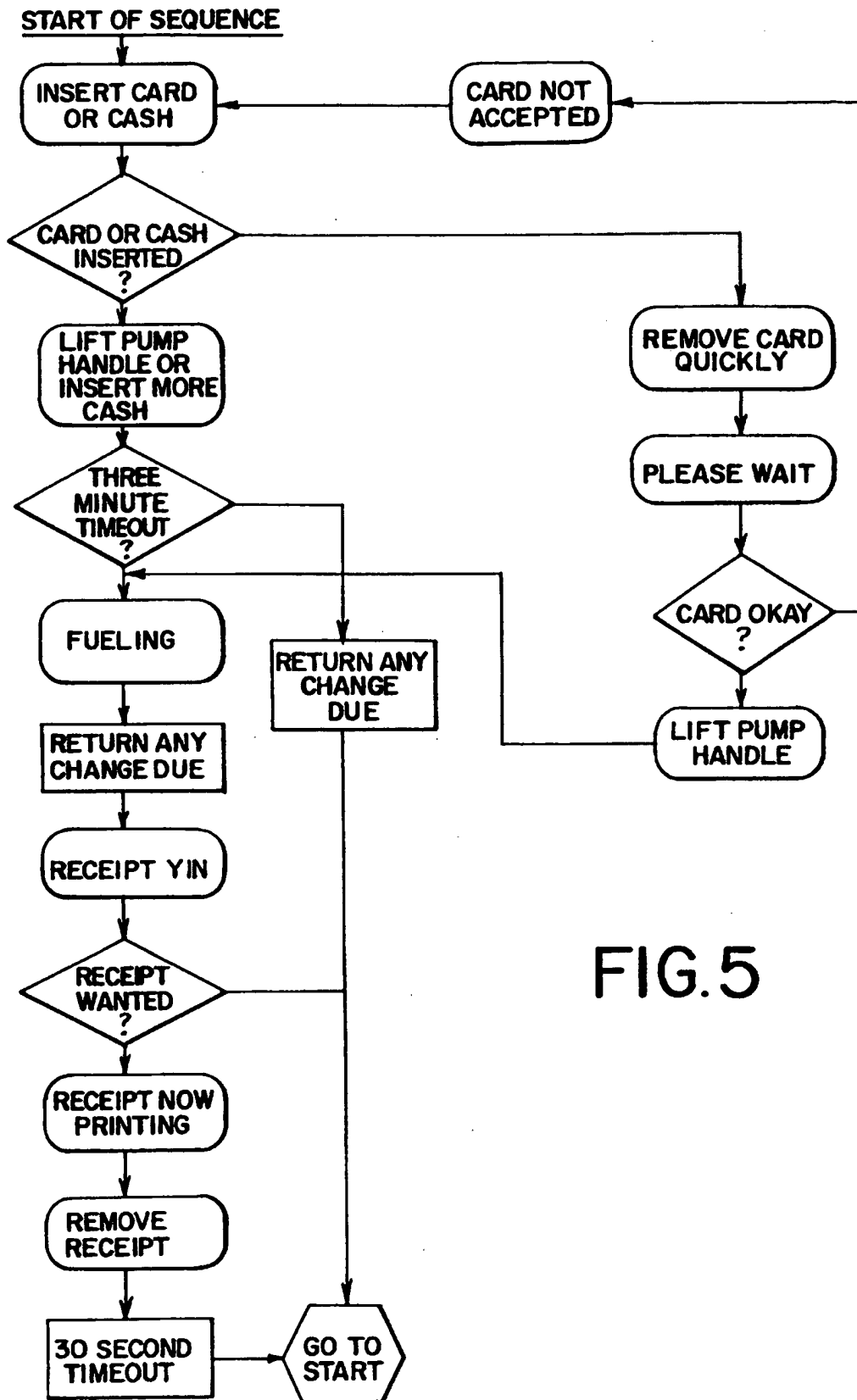
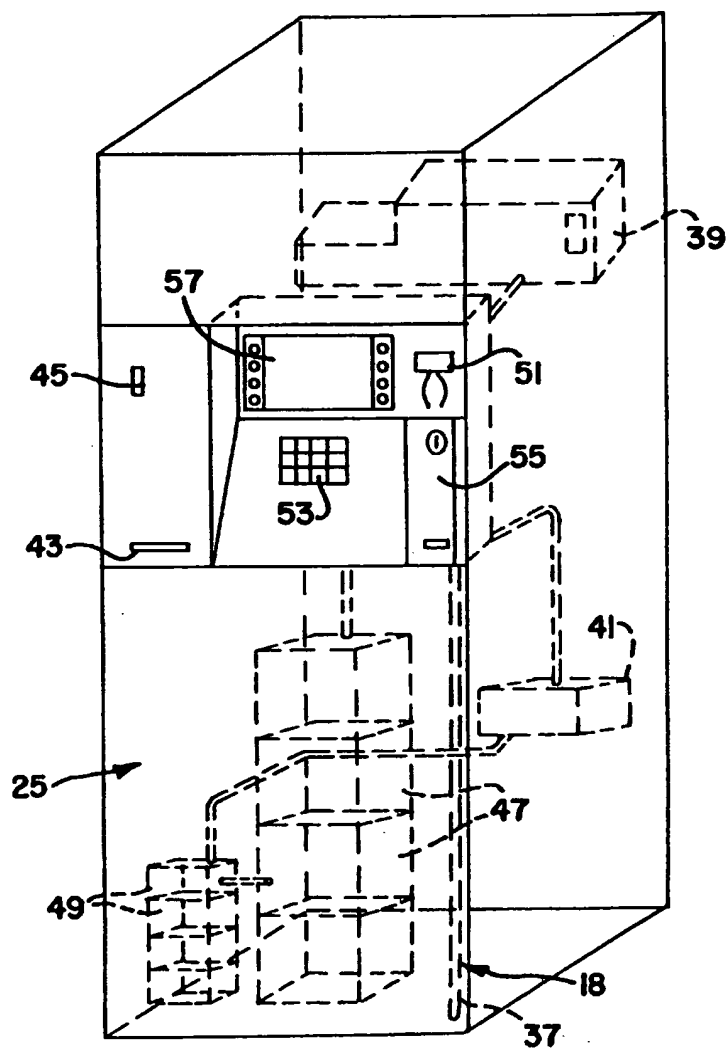


FIG.5

FIG. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/03397

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 364/401

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 364/401, 400, 403, 404, 405, 407; 235/381

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 3,747,732 (MITCHELL) 24 July 1973, abstract, fig. 1, col. 3, line 3 to col. 4, line 35	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A, 3,768,617 (YOUNG) 30 October 1973, abstract, fig. 1, col. 2, lines 5-59	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A, 3,786,421 (WOSTL ET AL) 15 January 1974, abstract, figs. 1-5, col. 1, line 61 to col. 2, line 34, col. 4, lines 28-62	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A, 3,391,497 (GENTILE ET AL) 06 January 1976, abstract, figs. 1-2 & 5, col. 1, line 33 to col. 2, line 27, col. 7, line 3 to col. 9, line 3	1-5 & 9-12

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 MAY 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 MAY 1996

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/03397

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, A, 3,935,435 (GREENWOOD) 27 January 1976, abstract, figs. 1-2, col. 1, lines 65-68, col. 2, lines 44-53, col. 4, lines 10-25, col. 5, lines 46-50, col. 8, lines 65-68	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A, 4,072,929 (GARMONG) 07 February 1978, abstract, fig. 1, col. 2, line 18 to-col. 4, line 29	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A, 4,174,806 (ZAHN) 20 November 1979, abstract, col. 2, line 23 to col. 5, line 46	1-5 & 9-12
A	US, A 4,900,906 (PUSIC) 13 February 1990 abstract, figs.1, 15-23 & 26-28, col. 2, line 13 to col. col. 4, line 2	1-5 & 9-12
A, P	US, A, 5,436,546 (PARKHURST) 31 October 1995, abstract, figs. 2-3, col. 3, lines 17-29	1-5 & 9-12
Y, P -----	US, A, 5,493,315 (ATCHLEY) 20 February 1996, abstract, figs. 1-2, col. 1, lines 8-58, col. 2, lines 6-13, col. 3, line 61 to col. 7, line 9, col. 8, lines 16-17, col. 10, lines 31-35, col. 10, lines 58-61, col. 16, lines 11-14	1-5 & 9-12 -----
X, P		6-8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/03397

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

APS

search terms: audio, viual, multimedia, gas, gasoline, petroleum, fuel, coin, currency, bill

Databases selected: Multiple databases...

Fast food to hit screens; [Home Edition]

LEON STAFFORD. *The Atlanta Journal - Constitution*. Atlanta, Ga.: Jul 26, 2002. pg. F.4

Subjects: Software, Fast food industry

Classification Codes 9190, 8610, 8380

Locations: Atlanta Georgia

Companies: Coca-Cola Co(Ticker:KO, NAICS: 312111, Duns:00-329-6175)

Author(s): LEON STAFFORD

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Section: *Business*

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Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=141745641&Fmt=3&clientId=19649&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

The next time you order a burger and fries, Coke executives want your experience to be just a few taps on a touchscreen and a short wait.

EMN8 of San Diego has created a touchscreen that allows customers to place their orders electronically on an animated menu inside the restaurant. It will show, for example, ketchup, pickles and lettuce flying across the screen and landing on a burger --- just as you ordered it.

James Marsland, executive vice president of EMN8, said his company plans to roll out some of the technology in Southern California restaurants in September. Coke has no nationwide rollout dates.

Full Text (300 words)

(Copyright, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution - 2002)

The next time you order a burger and fries, Coke executives want your experience to be just a few taps on a touchscreen and a short wait.

The Atlanta-based soft-drink manufacturer on Thursday announced an alliance with two technology companies to develop software that will make getting your meal at a fast-food restaurant as easy as getting money from a cash machine.

EMN8 of San Diego has created a touchscreen that allows customers to place their orders electronically on an animated menu inside the restaurant. It will show, for example, ketchup, pickles and lettuce flying across the screen and landing on a burger --- just as you ordered it.

James Marsland, executive vice president of EMN8, said his company plans to roll out some of the technology in Southern California restaurants in September. Coke has no nationwide rollout dates.

Allure Fusion Media, an Atlanta company, will replace the static, plastic, in-store menu boards that many customers waded through with a digital, Web-enabled screen that can display everything from your order to items that are on sale.

"We are always looking to provide solutions for our customers that will make their lives easier," said Eric McCarthy, senior vice president of national sales and marketing for Coke. No dates have been set for rolling out this technology.

David C. Borlo, Allure chief executive, said the possibilities of the animated menu boards are endless --- starting with restaurants being able to make menus reflect what's available at a particular time of day.

http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=0&retrievegroup=0&srchmode=5&vinst=PROD&fmt=3&startpage=-1&clie...

"I can make the menu board very morning-centric," he said. "I can talk about coffee, eggs or doughnuts instead of displaying every item on one big board."

Coke soon will start educating members of its sales staff on the new ventures.

> ON THE WEB: The Coke Insider www.ajc.com/business/coke

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